

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1309 without my signature.

This bill will result in significant state General Fund (Proposition 98) costs, allowing adult education to grow without regard for program needs or the state's funding priorities. The state cannot afford to implement such an "autopilot" growth policy. The Legislature and Administration should have the flexibility to address this issue through the annual budget process. Current law already gives the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) authority to allocate unused funding to districts that can demonstrate need, but tempers this authority by requiring that the SPI develop criteria identifying the need for expansion on an annual basis.

Furthermore, I am concerned that this bill would circumvent the implementation of adult education audit findings from 1993 that have yet to be applied. Until there is an acceptable resolution on these audit findings, I cannot support legislation that may result in these audit findings being disregarded.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger